

## CLEVELAND'S OPINION.

He Writes a Letter to Representative Catchings.

Now he is Willing to Take his Place in the Rank and File of the Democratic Party.

Last week President Cleveland wrote the following letter to Representative Catchings:

Since the conversation I had with you and Mr. Clark of Alabama a few days ago upon the tariff bill now before me, I have given the subject full and most serious consideration. The result is, I am more settled than ever in the determination to allow the bill to become a law without my signature.

When the formulation of legislation which it was hoped would embody democratic ideas of tariff reform was lately entered upon by congress, nothing was further from my anticipation than a result which I could promptly and enthusiastically endorse.

It is, therefore, with a feeling of disappointment that I submit to a denial of this privilege.

I do not claim to be better than the masses of my party nor do I wish to avoid any responsibility which, on account of the passage of this law, I ought to bear as a member of the democratic organization; neither will I permit myself to be separated from my party to such an extent as might be implied by my veto of tariff legislation, which, though disappointing, is still chargeable to democratic effort. But there are provisions in this bill which are not in line with honest tariff reform and it contains inconsistencies and crudities which ought not to appear in the tariff laws of any kind. Besides, there were, as you and I well know, incidents accompanying the passage of the bill through congress which made every sincere reformer unhappy, while influences surrounded it in its later stages and interfered with its final construction which ought not to be recognized or tolerated in democratic tariff reform councils.

And yet, notwithstanding all its vicissitudes and the bad treatment it received at the hands of pretended friends, it presents a vast improvement to existing conditions. It will certainly lighten many tariff burdens that now rest heavily upon the people. It is not only a barrier against the return of mad protection, but it furnishes a vantage ground from which must be waged further aggressive operations against protected monopoly and governmental favoritism.

I take my place with the rank and file of the democratic party who believe in tariff reform and who know what it is, who refuse to accept the results embodied in this bill as the close of the war, who are not blinded to the fact that the livery of the democratic tariff reform has been stolen and worn in the service of republican protection, and who have marked the places where the deadly blight of treason has blasted the councils of the brave in their hour of might.

The trusts and combinations—the communism of poli—whose machinations have prevented us from reaching the success we deserve, should not be forgotten or forgiven. We shall recover from our astonishment at their exhibition of power, and if then the question is forced upon us whether they shall submit to the free legislative will of the people's representatives, or shall dictate the laws which the people must obey, we will accept and settle that issue as one involving the integrity and safety of the American institutions.

I love the principles of true democracy because they are founded in patriotism and upon justness and fairness toward all interests. I am proud of my party organization because it is conservatively sturdy and persistent in the enforcement of its principles. Therefore I do not despair of the efforts made by the house of representatives to supplant the bill already passed by further legislation and to have engrafted upon it such modifications as will more nearly meet democratic hopes and aspirations. I cannot be mistaken as to the necessity of free raw materials as the foundation of logical and sensible tariff reform. The extent to which this is recognized in the legislation already secured is one of its encouraging and redeeming features; but it is vexatious to recall that while free coal and iron ore have been denied, a letter of the secretary of the treasury discloses the fact that both might have been made free by the annual surrender of only about \$700,000 of unnecessary revenue.

I am sure there is a common habit of under-estimating the importance of free raw materials in tariff legislation and of regarding them as only related to concessions to be made to our manufacturers. The truth is, the influence is so far-reaching that if disregarded a complete and beneficent scheme of tariff reform cannot be successfully inaugurated.

When we give to our manufacturers free raw materials we unshackle American enterprise and ingenuity and these will open the doors of foreign markets to the reception of our wares and give opportunity for the continuous and remunerative employment of American labor.

With materials cheapened by their freedom from tariff charges, the cost of their product must be correspondingly cheapened. Thereupon justice and fairness to the consumer would demand that the manufacturers be obliged to submit to such readjustment and modification of the tariff upon their manufacture, and shield the consumer against the exaction of inordinate profits.

It will thus be seen that free raw materials and a just and fearless regulation and reduction of the tariff to meet the changed conditions would carry to every humble home in the land the blessings of increased comfort and cheaper living.

The millions of our countrymen who have fought bravely and well for tariff reform should be exhorted to continue the struggle, boldly challenging to open warfare and constantly guarding against treachery and half-heartedness in their camp.

Tariff reform will not be settled until it is honestly and fairly settled in the interest and to the benefit of a patient and long suffering people.

#### Senators Whose Terms Expire in March.

The terms of the following United States senators expire March 3 next, and the legislatures which choose their successors are to be elected this fall:

Democrats—James H. Berry, Ark., Matthew C. Butler, S. C., Joshua N. Camden, W. Va., Richard Coke, Tex., Isham G. Harris, Tenn., William Lindsay, Ky., John Martin, Kan., John R.

McPherson, N. J., Matt W. Ransom, N. C., Patrick Walsh, Ga.

Republicans—Joseph M. Carey, Wyo., Wm. E. Chandler, N. H., Shelby M. Culom, Ill., William Frye, Me., Anthony Higgins, Del., George F. Hoar, Mass., Charles F. Manderson, Neb., James McMillan, Mich., R. F. Pettigrew, S. Dak., Thomas C. Power, Mont., George S. Shoup, Idaho, William D. Washburn, Minn., Edward O. Wolcott, Colo.

The terms of Nathan Dixon, R. I., James E. Wilson, Io., and Joseph N. Dolph, Ore., republicans, and Eppa Hunton, Va., A. J. McLaurin, Miss., and John T. Morgan, Ala., also expire next year. Rhode Island has already elected Senator Dixon's successor, George Peabody Wetmore. Iowa has elected as Wilson's successor ex-Gov. Gear. Ex-Senator Walthall has already been elected for the next term from Mississippi before he resigned, and gave place for the appointment of Mr. McLaurin to his unexpired term. Eppa Hunton's successor from Virginia will be Senator Martin, having been already chosen.

In Alabama and Oregon the legislatures have already been elected, and Senators Morgan and Dolph are practically assured of their being chosen their own successors. Besides these senators, Thomas J. Jarvis, of North Carolina, democrat, and George Perkins, of California, and John Patton, Jr., of Michigan, republicans, were chosen by Governors to fill vacancies, and the legislatures to be elected this fall will choose their successors for the balance of their terms. Montana, Washington and Wyoming have had only one senator each during the present congress, and the vacancies caused thereby are to be filled by the legislatures elected in these states this fall.

In the state of Louisiana, the last legislature which assembled in the spring elected Mr. Blanchard to fill the unexpired term of Mr. White, now justice of the United States supreme court, which ends in 1895, and elected Mr. Caffery to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Gibson, deceased, ending in 1895, and also for the new term ending in 1901.

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